

Upcoming Survey of Current Welfare Recipients

**Research and Development Division
California Department of Social Services**

Issue

- We are committed to providing services to help our clients successfully transition from welfare to work.
- We know that many of our clients are experiencing problems such as mental health issues, substance abuse, and domestic violence.
- We'd like to know more about how common these problems are in California's welfare population, and the extent to which these and other problems interfere with our clients' ability to obtain and maintain employment.

ASPE Grant

- In 2001, RADD received a competitive award of \$ 250,000 from ASPE (Associate Secretary for Planning & Evaluation) for this study.
- One of only 6 states to receive this grant. Other awards went to: Colorado, Maryland, Missouri, South Carolina, and Washington D.C.

Study Approach (1)

- Telephone Survey of approximately 2000 current California welfare recipients (One parent, two parent, and child only cases).
- Same questions asked in all 6 states.
- Will allow comparisons between states.
- Survey to be conducted in English and Spanish.

Study Approach (2)

- **200 Questions assessing:**
 - ◆ **Demographics, employment status, education, child care, physical and mental health, domestic violence, transportation, and attitudes about welfare and employment.**
- **Using administrative data, we will be able to follow the subjects over time to determine the extent to which these factors are associated with employment and moving off welfare.**

Timeline

- Survey instrument finalized in October 2001. Under review at OMB -- approval anticipated March 2002.
- Data collection to be conducted from April 2002 through October 2002.
- Analysis of raw data: September 2002 through February 2003
- Final report due to ASPE March 2003
- Anticipate following subjects to examine employment outcomes.